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The subject matter is considered under four main heads. Chapter I is devoted to a general statement of the scope of ecology. Chapter II deals with habitat, and contains a description of the instruments and methods used in recording water-content, light-intensity, temperature, soil, and other factors upon which the organism is dependent. Many of the methods described, have been elaborated by the author in his own extensive work in the West. Chapter III, the Plant, considers the general relations, adaptations, and reactions of the separate organism, while Chapter IV deals with the Formation in its various aspects, and the methods of studying the relations that groups of plants bear to one another and to their environment.

This work should do much towards establishing ecology and experimental plant evolution upon a firmer basis by pointing out the need and the method of making absolute determinations of factors, instead of the inaccurate generalizations so often recorded. The time is also not far distant when it will be a simple matter to determine, by an examination of a given soil in a given situation, what plants are best adapted to any portion of a single farm, so that agriculture may be carried on under much more precise regulations.

Although plants alone are dealt with in the present volume, many of the methods described will have to be used in a more exact study of animal habitats, and here lies a large field as yet hardly more than touched upon. The author recognizes the zonal distribution of continental forms, and proposes a new nomenclature for these as occurring in North America. Apparently, however, the areas already recognized and named by American zoölogists are ignored, and the new classification given, does not seem as adequate as that now in use by the latter.

A glossary, including numerous terms proposed by the author, and a bibliography of plant ecology complete the book. Notwithstanding the very detailed statement of contents, the lack of an index is a disadvantage.

G. M. A.

Moore's Universal Kinship¹ is intended as a protest against that attitude of the human mind that would conceive all animals other than man as man's just and legitimate prey. The author appears to have become greatly impressed by Darwin's conception of the

¹ Moore, J. H. *The Universal Kinship*. Chicago, Chas. H. Kerr and Co., 1906. 12mo, x + 330 pp. \$1.00.

ultimate consanguinity of all sentient beings, and addresses himself to the task of arousing in man a greater feeling of sympathy for his fellow creatures. The argument falls under three heads: man's physical relation to other animals, his psychical similarity to them in certain fundamental ways, and hence his ethical kinship. The author concludes that the fact "that vertebrate animals, differing in externals as widely as herring and Englishmen, are all built according to the same fundamental plan, with marrow-filled backbones and exactly two pairs of limbs branching in the same way, is an astonishing coincidence"; hence the fancied superiority of the human race is but a figment of man's mind for "man is not a god, nor in any imminent danger of becoming one."

While agreeing with the author that "the art of being kind" is in sore need of cultivation among us, one cannot but be amused at the mixture of fact and error, observation and travelers' tales, seriousness of statement and straining after absurd expressions, that characterizes this not unreadable book.

G. M. A.

ZOÖLOGY

Pratt's Vertebrate Zoölogy.¹—In continuation of the plan of his *Invertebrate Zoölogy*, published some three or four years ago, Dr. Pratt now offers a similar guide to the dissection of vertebrates, which would appear to merit the same favorable reception accorded to the earlier volume. As a guide to vertebrate dissection its chief claim to usefulness over the already existing laboratory manuals on the subject lies perhaps in the fact that it includes under one cover those forms most frequently employed in American laboratories, for descriptions of which the teacher or student has formerly found it necessary to refer to two or three separate works. Outlines are furnished for the dissection of seven types, *viz.*: dogfish, perch, mud-puppy (*Necturus*), frog, turtle, pigeon, and cat. Of these, that of *Necturus* will probably be especially acceptable, since it is a form commonly

¹ Pratt, Henry Sherring. *A Course in Vertebrate Zoölogy. A Guide to the Dissection and Comparative Study of Vertebrate Animals.* Boston, Ginn and Co., 1905. 8vo, x + 299 pp.